

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M. Tulino on 10 March 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 2, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 16 have been canceled.

Claims 26-31 have been added as follows:

--Claim 26 (New) A string type air damper comprising: a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof; a piston, which moves in the cylinder; a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein: the piston and the string member are integrally molded; the string member branches into a plurality of portions and connects with the piston at a base end portion thereof; the portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member; and the plurality of portions of the string member connect with different positions on the piston.

Claim 27 (New) The string type air damper according to claim 26, further comprising an end cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder.

Claim 28 (New) The string type air damper according to claim 26, further comprising a mount integrally formed on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.

Claim 29 (New) A string type air damper comprising: a cylinder formed in a tubular shape; a piston, which moves in the cylinder; a helical spring for biasing the piston toward one end portion of the cylinder; a guide cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder and defining a guide hole; and, a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein: the guide cap and the string member are integrally molded; the string member is hooked to the piston within the cylinder and is guided to the outside thereof; the string member branches into a plurality of portions; a base end portion of the string member is connected to the guide cap; and the plurality of portions of the string member are connected to different positions on the guide cap.

Claim 30 (New) The string type air damper according to claim 29, wherein: the plurality of portions comes together at a forward end portion of the string member; and the portions are hooked at the piston.

Claim 31 (New) The string type air damper according to claim 29, further comprising a mount integrally formed on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.--

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For claim 26, Thackston et al. (USPN 6,345,583) discloses a dampening device comprising a cylinder (90) formed in a tubular shape and a guide hole at one end portion thereof, a piston (80), which moves in the cylinder; a helical spring (40) for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and a string member (4) guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein; the piston and string member are integrally molded; the string member branches into a plurality of portions (20, 30) and connects with the piston at a base end portion (14) thereof, the portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member (Figs. 3 and 4) of the string member. Thackston et al. fails to disclose or suggest a string member which moves from inside of a cylinder to the outside of the cylinder, where the string member is structured as a string member branching into a plurality of segments and connects with a piston, the segments come together at a forward end part of the string member and the plurality of segments connect with different positions along the piston. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have a string member is structured as a string member branching into a plurality of segments and connects with a piston, the segments come together at a forward end part of the string member and the plurality of segments connect with different positions along the piston.

Regarding claim 29, the same reasons for allowance of claim 26 apply to claim 29 since Thackston also disclose that the dampening device comprises a guide cap (72) defining a guide hole (74b) and attached at one end portion thereof, the string member

(4) is hooked to the piston within the cylinder and guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole wherein the piston, end cap and string member are integrally molded (Figs. 3 and 4).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor D. Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 3677

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/RCR/
Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

rcr

March 27, 2008

/Robert J. Sandy/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 3677